

REGION

Duxbury Free Library

Library cafe gets rave reviews

Cafe opens in Duxbury library

By George P. Brennan
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DUXBURY — Duxbury's new library is being heralded for its tasteful design and decor.

But the tastiest aspect of the \$6.6 million renovation of the former Alden school into a public library may be on the bottom floor. A cafe operated by French Memories opened Jan. 15, a little off schedule from the planned opening date of Jan. 2, but ready to tempt library patrons with its array of cookies, croissants and bagels.

Debbi Odier, owner of French Memories on Washington Street in Snug Harbor, said the cafe has been a hit.

"It's taken off a bit quicker than we anticipated," she said.

The library's location on the campus with three schools has helped. It didn't take long for the students to find the food. "At 2:10 every afternoon, this place is full of children," Odier said.

Along with sweets and drinks, Odier said the cafe is offering sandwiches and soups at lunchtime.

She said in the first few weeks business was slow during some periods, but the afternoon flurry has been fast and furious each day.



Staff photo/John Cook

In contemplation — Pastor David Woods of the New Covenant Fellowship spends a quiet moment working on his Sunday sermon at the Duxbury Free Library's new French Memories Cafe.

The cafe is located on the bottom floor. It includes several tables and chairs with a collection of newspapers for browsing. It's open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Those hours may fluctuate, according to Odier, depending on the demand.

Right now there's no cappuccino offered, but that could change.

"We'll need to have a lot of re-

quests before we buy a (cappuccino) machine," she said.

The cafe isn't offering its usual variety of dessert slices, but that could change with the demand, too.

"If we see a call for it, we'll get a refrigerated case over here," she said.

Coffee, soft drinks and sweets are not allowed in the library, of course, and most people — espe-

cially the kids — are following the rules.

John Dellicicchi, the newly hired manager of the cafe, is looking forward to installing a music system and enhancing the experience with soft jazz and classical music playing in the background.

"I think it's really nice," he said of the library setting. "It's comfortable, relaxing — a great atmosphere."

LIBRARY CAFE

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